

## Mazel Tov CSZ!

To the Building Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav:

When we received your notice about the Dedication Service, it brought back the memory of the raffle your Building Committee and members worked so hard on, to help raise funds for your new building. Our daughters Alisa and Alison were busy selling raffle tickets, and of course we bought some.

Lo and behold—we were the lucky, excited, and surprised first prize winners of the trip to Israel for which two of your members so generously donated the frequent flier miles. We were able to arrange our trip for the month of June. It was Ken's first trip there.

A good friend of ours insisted we make her home in Holon outside Tel Aviv, our headquarters, and so all our tours around the country were leisurely and comfortably scheduled. We spent a most adventurous, exhilarating month exploring the highlights, from "Metulla to Eilat." We saw the gushing tributaries of the Jordan River, and explored the Golan Heights, gazing from points where we could see all of northern Israel, and almost to Damascus.

Every excavation site we explored is history alive, places straight from the Torah. They were awe-inspiring. We spent nine days in Jerusalem and the surrounding area and just touched the surface. We took a city bus 99, which circles all around the city (including East Jerusalem) and stayed on for a second round just to capture that awesome bird's eye view of the whole area. We rented a little flat we located on the net, and had Shabbat dinner with M'chatonim who live right across from the Wall. We also toured the tunnels, in a highly organized and guarded tour. One of our highlights was actually planting a "grove" of trees in the Jerusalem forest behind and below the Hadassah Medical Center.

Another time, friends took us to a colorful and friendly Druze village. We also toured the cultural spots in Tel Aviv, and enjoyed Pinchas Zuckerman

conducting and soloing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. We toured Jaffa and its many art galleries and had a fish dinner with friends at a waterfront restaurant off the beaten path.

And of course we toured the south and floated in the Dead Sea. We took the cable up to Masada (which Doris had hiked up in 1951) and flew to Eilat, the international resort center (where in 1951 there was only one sparse hotel). A day of snorkeling around Coral Island in Egypt from the tour boat, Oriania, a visit to Timna and a couple days relaxing by the pool, completed our trip. The total experience was spectacular.

Thank you Sha'ar Zahav for making this wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime happening possible for us. The timing was perfect.

May we wish you Mazel Tov as you celebrate the dedication of the new building on December 19th. Your members worked hard for this goal.

Sincerely,

—Doris Weiner and Ken Yeffa

## Debbie Friedman in Concert

Debbie Friedman will begin her 1999 National Concert Tour in the Bay Area.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Congregation Emanu-El and UAHC Camp Swig / Camp Newman are proud to co-sponsor Debbie in concert on Wednesday, January 13 at 8 pm at Congregation Emanu-El.



Debbie Friedman

Debbie and her four-piece band will present new music (recently performed at Carnegie Hall) and old standards. For Debbie, performing is more than giving voice to her original lyrics and melodies. It means connecting with ourselves and others. Don't miss this special opportunity to be inspired by one of the most acclaimed performers of Jewish music of our time.

Tickets are \$22.50 for adults and \$17.50 for seniors and students. Call City Box Office (392-4400) to order your tickets today.



Alice Prussin, Daniel Chesir, Rabbi Litman and Jonathan Funk celebrate Shabbat in our new Mishkan. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



## Geshem...and Tu b'Shevat

*"Isaid to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God,' and the almond tree blossomed."*  
—Nicolai Kazantzakis

It's pouring outside. I'm not speaking here of the constant drizzle of winter on the Bay, but a real *mamash* cloudburst. A veritable sheet of water is running down my window. This reminds me of the dumb joke about the "back-side of water" that the guides tell on the Jungle Cruise in Disneyland, and I think to myself, "what a Californian I am."



Rabbi Jane Litman

I like living in California—not just because of the tolerant social milieu, and not merely due to the breathtaking beauty of its natural environment—but because this is a place where the climate and Judaism are in harmony. Think about it: ocean on the West, desert in the Southeast, big trees in the North. California evokes the natural cycles of the land of Israel which underlie the holy days of the Jewish festival year.

In Israel, the weather is moving from the phase the Bible calls *yoreh*, early rain, to the season known as *geshem*, heavy rain. Geshem... that's what's pouring down outside the window across from my desk. As Jews, we appreciate the cloudbursts and downpours. At the holiday of Sukkot, we begin our prayers for a full and generous season of rain. Our tradition is familiar with droughts and famine. We understand the beauty of rain, even as we put up with wet clothes, stalled traffic and the sniffles.

This year, the end of January coincides with the Jewish holy day of Tu b'Shvat, the new year of the trees. Soon after Tu b'Shvat, the sap begins to run and the almonds blossom. People sow seeds (such as parsley or lettuce) to grow the karpas and greens they will use at Pesach. In places such as Minneapolis and Warsaw, there is still a great deal of snow on the ground at Tu b'Shvat, but in California we are in perfect harmony with Jewish spiritual ecology. What a blessing!

Our religion gives us the tools to understand and appreciate the wonder of our biosphere. Judaism affirms the fun-

damental sacredness of the *olam hazeh*, this earthly world, in and of itself. As Jews, our life here is not merely a prelude to some more perfect existence in the beyond. Our religious mission is profoundly tied to the natural cycles, seasons and climate. We are of this world, and also its stewards.

Thus Rabbi Nathan reminds us: if you are involved in planting a tree and they come to you saying, 'Come, the messiah has arrived. Leave off your work to greet the holy one,' first finish planting the tree and then go out to meet the messiah. Redemption is in the very act of planting.

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

12/18 **Va'ad**, in honor of the Building Committee.

12/25 **Leon and Lilah Groisser**, in honor of Sarita Groisser co-leading services.

## A CSZ Tu b'Shevat Seder

*"Then the trees of the forest will sing out and the tree of the field will raise a branch and make fruit, day by day."*  
—Pri Ayts Hadar, 17th Century Tu b'Shevat Haggadah

On erev Tu b'Shevat, January 31, CSZ's Environmental Action committee will host a Tu b'Shevat seder at 7:30 pm at CSZ.

Our Tu b'Shevat seder will follow the path of the 17th century Kabbalists in celebrating the renewal of nature and our expression of hope for *tikkun olam*—a healing of the trees, the forests, the earth and ourselves. The ritual eating of fruits and nuts (organic of course) and drinking of four colors of wine (or grape juice) help to put us in touch with the four levels of existence described by the Jewish mystics.

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## Jewish Influence On 20th Century American Architecture

Sha'ar Zahav's Talmud Torah/Adult Education Committee and the American Jewish Committee's Open Circle, are co-sponsoring an evening discussion on the Jewish Influence on 20th Century American Architecture on Tuesday January 12 at 7 pm. CSZ member and renowned architect, Stanley Saitowitz, will be the main presenter of the evening. This is the final seminar in a three-part series on Jewish Influence in the Arts put on by the American Jewish Committee. In choosing a site for the program on architecture, they naturally chose Sha'ar Zahav's new mishkan, the exciting and newest example of Jewish architecture in San Francisco.

Join this fascinating discussion on January 12 with a dessert reception at 7 pm followed by the presentation at 7:30 pm. The cost for members is \$5. The cost for non-members is \$15.

## HIV Support Group

CSZ has a monthly drop-in support group for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 9, at 3 pm for the drop-in support group, at 290 Dolores Street. For further information, please call the synagogue office.

## Rabbi's Calendar

On January 8, Rabbi Litman's sermon will be entitled "The Power of Naming." On January 15, Rabbi Litman's sermon will be entitled "The Intersection of Religion and Science: What to Make of the Ten Plagues."

Rabbi Litman will be at the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis (PARR) from January 3-7. From January 22-24, Rabbi Litman will be at the UAHC Regional Biennial with others in synagogue leadership.

Rabbi Litman will be in Los Angeles January 28-29, serving on the board of the Millennial March on Washington.

## Adult Education/ Talmud Torah Committee Needs You

—Sue Bojdak, Chair

Calling all teachers, would-be teachers and wanna-be teachers! The Adult Education/Talmud Torah Committee is looking for you. Don't want to sit through committee meetings but want to be more involved in adult education? Looking for an outlet to share what you know? This is your opportunity. You could teach a one-time class or a three-part series. Are you not prepared to facilitate a whole class but willing to be on a panel? As the Diversity Dialogue series continues, we continue to look for panelists on these great topics: in January, "Old, Young and In-between at CSZ;" in February, "Race;" in March, "Gender Identity: Trans and More;" in April, "Views on God;" in May, "Able-bodiedness;" in June, "Straights in a Gay Community."

If you want to join the committee or teach a class, call Sue Bojdak (510/601-6791). If you want to be on a Diversity Dialogue panel, call Renée at the CSZ office.



Our founders: Daniel Chesir, Shamir Durst and Bernard Pechter celebrate Shabbat in our new Mishkan. Photo by Michael Bettinger.

## Social Action/Tikkun Olam Happenings

### Dolores Street Community Services

The Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee has been working hard to help our neighbors at Dolores Street Community Services. On November 15, two shifts of ten CSZ volunteers cooked and shared a meal with the guests at the homeless shelter at Dolores and 15th Street run by Dolores Street Community Services. Volunteers cooked food provided by the shelter while other CSZ members helped out by donating fresh salads, desserts and drinks to supplement the meal. Finally, we had the great pleasure of sitting down and sharing the meal with the residents, our neighbors. The Tikkun Olam/Social Action Committee looks forward to sharing many future meals with the shelter guests. We thank those of you who helped us make this project a big success.

### Tu b'Shevat

In honor of Tu b'Shevat, on Saturday January 30, we will participate in a planting project with the Friends of the Urban Forest. Planting trees in the city where we are often starved for nature is a perfect way to honor the festival of the trees. Sha'ar Zahavniks of all ages are encouraged to volunteer. Call the CSZ office for more information.

### March Activities

On Friday March 5, we will be sponsoring a Shabbat lunch for Jewish seniors living in the Tenderloin. The lunch is a part of a regular program of Jewish Family and Children's Services. We will provide financial support to help pay for the lunch. We will also serve the lunch, visit with the seniors and participate in a sing along and service.

On March 14, 15 and 16, we will be feeding the homeless at St. Paulus Lutheran Church. We will need four to five people each evening to cook and serve a dinner. Here's a great opportunity to call some friends and sponsor a night.

All projects need volunteer help and monetary support. To volunteer, contact Laura Lowe (247-2409), Allan Berenstein (863-8033) or Renée in the synagogue office. To support these projects financially, you can make a donation to CSZ's Harvey Milk Social Action fund.



## A Question of Perspective

I begin this year thinking about the events of the year just past. There are, of course, major accomplishments like moving into the Mishkan, but there have also been less visible successes that I think we should celebrate as well. We have had a record number of b'nai mitzvahs this year, an amazing number of children have arrived into the families of our congregation, and we have continued to mature emotionally and spiritually as a community.



Diana Buchbinder

I am thinking of these as I write because I recently received an email from the president of another synagogue that identifies as having special outreach to the gay and lesbian community. Through our web page, this president was able to send me a long message asking for some advice about a question which is causing division in their community. The problem arises from the fact that, recently, more and more non-gays are joining their community. While they, like us, are members of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations, this recent change in demographics has caused questions among the leadership. They wonder how to address the "non-gay problem." Should they, the message asked, consider becoming a social organization whose members happen to be Jews, in order to maintain their gay identity. They wanted to know how we have handled this issue here at Sha'ar Zahav.

I was reluctant to answer at first, feeling like there was no way to discuss the question without implicitly agreeing that the inclusion of non-gay members in our community is a problem. At the same time, I do understand the unstated fear in the question. For so many of us who have lived in a world dominated by cultures not our own, or where only parts of us were accepted, the safety of our gay synagogue is something we cherish.

And, so I replied: yes, we have had the same experience and we struggle

with it together, gay and non-gay. I said that what defines our community is that we are a synagogue and committed to the practice of Jewish faith, values and principles in all that we do, and that I believe that being willing to struggle together and to model the acceptance we have so long fought for does not diminish our uniqueness, but strengthens it. I was able to report on the Kol Kolaynu Committee's work and the resulting statement. I talked about Kadimah, about preserving our core values and about the importance of like minds working together toward a common goal. I stressed the importance of looking upon the changing membership not as a problem, but as a sign that they had done things right. I encouraged them to consider that what had attracted those new members was the very thing the leadership should take conscious care to preserve. Finally, I invited the author of the email to join me for lunch on an upcoming visit to San Francisco to talk some more.

Describing our experience made me proud of us all. I wish each of you a good 1999, filled with faith, community, and belonging.

### Members' Yahrzeits

9	Jerry Davis
12	Avrum Ya'akov Berenstein
18	Keith Fenton
20	George Ash
24	Cheryl Orvis

## ARZA Executive Director to Visit CSZ

Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, the executive director of Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)/ World Union, North America, is coming to Sha'ar Zahav on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 pm. Rabbi Hirsch heads the new, merged entity of ARZA and the North American Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Its mission is to continue to develop progressive Judaism in Israel and throughout the world by promoting religious pluralism and Zionism. Additionally, it seeks to strengthen the relationship between North American Reform Jews and the progressive Jewish communities in Israel and throughout the world, to deepen the understanding of the relationship between Zionism and progressive Judaism among Reform Jews, and to educate our constituency on relevant matters.

Last spring, Rabbi Hirsch advocated the tabling, or if necessary the defeating, of a CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis, the professional organization for Reform rabbis) resolution that would have called for Jewish religious recognition of same-gender marriages. This resolution, which would have made a strong statement of American Reform rabbis' support for the Jewish sanctification of same-sex marriages, was tabled.

Rabbi Hirsch's visit to CSZ will give us the opportunity to discuss this action with him. Come express your views and learn more about ARZA/ World Union.



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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$18/year.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

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**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha’ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

January 1999/Volume 22, Issue 5.



## UAHC News and Events

CSZ is affiliated with the Reform Jewish movement, whose parent group of synagogues is the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). The UAHC is based in New York and is divided into several regions. CSZ is a member of the Northern California region and has been a member of the UAHC for nearly 20 years. Other gay and lesbian outreach congregations that belong to the UAHC include Beth Chayim Chadashim (Los Angeles), Or Chadash (Chicago), Etz Chayim (Miami) and Beth Haverim (Philadelphia).

Several CSZ members are actively involved in the UAHC, including Mike Rankin (National Board member), Daniel Chesir (Regional Board member) and Robin Leonard (Regional Leadership Development Committee Chair). In addition, Ron Lezell is a member of the board of ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America).

From January 22–24, the Northern California region will hold its 21st Biennial Convention at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sonoma. The weekend will include worship services, workshops, entertainment and addresses by major leaders of the Reform movement, including UAHC President, Rabbi Eric Yoffie and ARZA/World Union Executive Director, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch. If you’ve never been to a UAHC biennial (regional or national), this is a great

opportunity to participate in the world’s largest Jewish movement. For registration information, call the UAHC regional office at 392-7080.

Not ready (or able) to attend the biennial, but still looking for a “taste of Reform”? Here are some upcoming UAHC events and information on UAHC materials that might be of interest:

- **Spiritual Retreats:** Each summer, the UAHC puts on three spiritual/educational retreats around the country, including one in Santa Cruz. These are called *kallot*, and several CSZ members have attended over the years. The UAHC has expanded its *kallot* program with three upcoming events: the Winter Spirituality and Study Retreat in Miami (January 8–10), the Spring Spirituality and Study Retreat in Houston (March 19–21) and Slalom Rav, an annual study and ski adventure in Snowmass, Colorado (March 24–28). For more information, contact the UAHC at [www.uahc.org/growth/kallot](http://www.uahc.org/growth/kallot) or 212/650-4087.

- **Sing Out for Justice:** The Reform Movement’s social action wing is the Religious Action Center (RAC). It has just put out a CD and tape of the social justice concert performed at the 1997 UAHC National Biennial in Dallas. Featured artists include Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary fame), Theodore Bikel, Debbie Friedman and

*Continued on page 6*



Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Assemblywoman Carole Migden and Supervisor Mark Leno at Harvey Milk Yarzheit service. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



## UAHC Update

*Continued from page 5*

Linda Hirschhorn. For ordering information, contact the RAC at [www.rj.org/rac](http://www.rj.org/rac) or 202-387-2800.

- **Click on Judaism:** Know any young Jews looking for religious meaning but not interested in joining CSZ, or any synagogue for that matter? The Commission on Synagogue Affiliation, a joint project of the UAHC and the Reform movement's rabbinic association, has a new website at [www.clickonjudaism.org](http://www.clickonjudaism.org). It's geared toward Jews in their 20s and 30s, and includes such articles as "Confessions of a Hebrew School Dropout" and "Jewish Perspectives on Body Piercing and Tattooing."

- **Learn and Lobby:** Every two years, just after a new U.S. Congress takes office, the RAC and the UAHC's Commission on Social Action host two and a half days of intensive, high-level briefings on current issues and critical legislation, called the Consultation on Conscience. Past speakers have included the Dalai Lama, Vice President Al Gore and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This year's Consultation will take place April 25-27 in Washington, DC. For information, contact the RAC at [www.rj.org/rac](http://www.rj.org/rac), [consultation@uahc.org](mailto:consultation@uahc.org) or 202-387-2800.

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happening first!

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## Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

**Tiela Chalmers**, on the death of her mother, Thelma Fox Chalmers.

**Randy Heilbrunn**, on the death of his mother, Sylvia Heilbrunn.

**Louisa Stone**, on the death of her father, Noel Stone.

**Claire Rappaport**, on the death of her friend, Mark Fry.

**Marjorie Bennett**, on the death of her godmother, Kathleen Schneider.

## A Workshop and Healing Service for Gay Widowers

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and Metropolitan Community Church are co-sponsoring a program for and about gay widowers on January 16, 5-8 pm at CSZ. Our featured guest, Michael Shernoff, MSW, wrote *Gay Widowers: Life After the Death of a Partner*. He will lead a discussion until 7:30 pm. At that time, Rabbi Litman and Reverend Jim Mitulski of MCC will lead a healing ritual and a Havdalah service. Men from CSZ and MCC are invited to attend this unique program. Call the CSZ office for more information.

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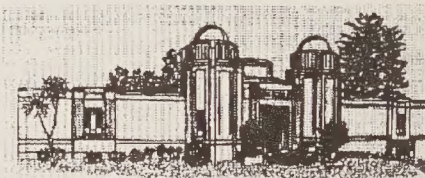
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CSZ's first Shabbat service in Mishkan Dolores. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



## Tot Shabbat

### Celebrating Our Jewish Heroes

Toddlers, preschoolers and their families are invited to Tot Shabbat on January 22. Led by Rabbi Litman and Patricia Lin, this interactive service will focus on learning about Jewish heroes throughout the ages. Families are invited to share a brown bag Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm before the 7:15 pm service.

### New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. We extend a warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Ann Aptaker

Jonathan D. Fuchs

David Williams and Jacob Fernandez

Cheryl Price and her son,  
Jacob Montgomery

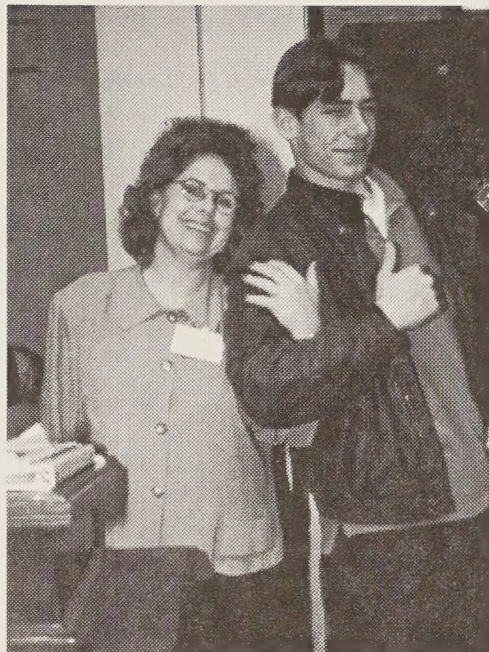
We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Anniversaries

- 1 Sharon Tanenbaum and Matrisha Person
- 15 Barbara Becker and Ellen Press
- 16 Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott
- 23 Stephen Hauptman and Trudi Hauptman

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



*Diana and Aaron Buchbinder celebrate Shabbat at the first service in our new Mishkan. Photo by Michael Bettinger.*

### Old, Young and In-Between at CSZ

Sha'ar Zahav has grown to be a truly intergenerational community. Having members who span a wide range of ages creates richness as well as challenges for us. It is inevitably a different experience to be a 13 year-old at Sha'ar Zahav than to be a 75 year-old, just as being a 25 year-old who came of age post Stone-wall is different than being a 50 year-old. At the next in the series of Diversity Dialogues, the Talmud Torah/Adult Education Committee invites to you to explore these differences in order to gain deeper understanding of those folks who are of a different generation than yourself. This dialogue, entitled "Old, Young and In-between at Sha'ar Zahav" and will take place on January 24 at 7:30 pm at CSZ.

### Kadimah Korner

— David Shneer,  
Director of Education

Kadimah will be ushering in the secular new year with regular Kadimah classes starting the week of January 4. In honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, we will not be meeting on Saturday, January 16. In addition to regularly scheduled classes, Kadimah is sponsoring our second Family Shabbat Dinner on Friday, January 22. We will be organizing dinners throughout the city and one in the East Bay. I encourage everyone to attend. I am looking for hosts who will open their homes to fellow Sha'ar Zahavniks. Please contact me at the CSZ office if you would like to host and/or attend.

#### Final Kadimah biographies:

Jennifer Markowitz, our Kitah Gimel teacher, has been involved in Jewish education for ten years. She has worked with all age groups and in a variety of synagogues and is one of our most experienced teachers. This is Jennifer's second year with Kadimah and she has already become an institution. Jennifer has become noteworthy for her story telling, her boundless energy, and her creative uses of "found" objects in fabulous art projects.

Phyllis Mintzer, our Kitah Dahlet Hebrew teacher and head teacher, needs no introduction. Phyllis has been in Jewish education longer than many of us have been alive and has been a source of inspiration and learning to everyone at Sha'ar Zahav. She grew up in New York and moved to the Bay Area in the 60s (was she a hippie?) and since then has worked for numerous Bay Area synagogues as well as for the UAHC. Phyllis was one of the founders of Kadimah's educational program and has published several articles and books on Jewish education. Phyllis' sidekick, George, can frequently be seen hauling around her teaching paraphernalia as well as teaching and studying Torah. We love them both.

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**Arnie Jackson**, in memory of Richard D. Wright.

## Bikkur Cholim Fund

**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**, in memory of Matthew Sheppard.

## Chesir-Stein Music Fund

**Ann Biderman**, in memory of Leo Luskin.  
**Claire Rappoport**, in honor of Dev for being so fabulous.

## Children's Education Fund

**Deborah Agre**.  
**Marianne Balin**, in honor of Annie Downs becoming bat mitzvah.  
**Marianne Balin and family**, in honor of Rena Fischer.  
**Peter Barnes and Leyna Bernstein**, in honor of Leah Halperin becoming bat mitzvah.  
**Arnie Magenheim**, in honor of Ya'ari Harkavy Magenheim.

## General Fund

**Donald Abrams**.  
**Julie Dorf and Jenni Olson**, in honor of Ora Prochovnick.  
**Jeff Forman and Paul Nemrow**, in memory of Andrew Stuart.  
**Stuart Hample**, in memory of Amie Herscovici.  
**Eileen and Jonah Levy**, in honor of the birth of Jonathan Tyler Levy.  
**Jean and David Maclachlan**, in honor of Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod.  
**George and Phyllis Mintzer**, in memory of Dolores Urban.  
**George and Phyllis Mintzer**, in honor of Yoel Kahn's birthday.  
**Perry Paker**, in memory of Isidor Paker.  
**Perry Paker**, in memory of Meyer Paker.  
**Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski**, in memory of Beth Meizlesh.  
**Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.  
**Laurie Salen**, in memory of Ephraim Discher and Richard Lewis.  
**Jeff Sherman**, in memory of Ida and Joseph Rosenthal.  
**Elizabeth Stark**, in honor of Joan Nestle.  
**Howard Steiermann**, in honor of the birth of Sean Michael Martin-Hamburger.  
**Howard Steiermann**, in honor of the birth of Benjamin William Gustavson-Scharf.  
**Julie Walcer**.  
**Patricia F. Wilmot**, in memory of Ronald P. Wilmot.  
**Gilda and Melvin Winiker**, in memory of Andrew Stuart.  
**Laurie Zimet and Toni Fitzpatrick**, in memory of Jerry Eisenman.

## Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Harvey Milk.

**Allan Berenstein**, in honor of Renée Bauer.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Marianne Balin**, in honor of Annie Downs becoming bat mitzvah.  
**Jean Eichenbaum**, in honor of Lea Salem.  
**Allan Ferrara**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.  
**Arnie Jackson**, in memory of Louis Jackson.  
**Steve Wiesner**, in memory of Delores Wiesner.

## High Holiday Contributions

**Randy Weiss**, in honor of Lea Salem.

## Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

**Angelo Acere**.  
**Anonymous**, in honor of Ira Hirschfield.  
**John Arnold**, as a Chanukah gift to Jon Funk.  
**Marianne Balin and family**, in honor of Tiela Chalmers.  
**Marianne Balin and family**, in memory of Thelma Chalmers.  
**Ben Bank and Brian Jersky**, in memory of Leiba Skudowitz.  
**Jonathan Bell**.  
**Allan Berenstein**.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Chuck Norton.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Don Albert.  
**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Harry Berenstein.  
**Patricia C. Bigglestone**.  
**Judith Cohen**.  
**Michael Cohen**.  
**Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman**.  
**Richard and Carol Cutler**, in honor of Deborah Udin.  
**Rebecca Doctors**.  
**Ron Edelman**.  
**Jean Eichenbaum**, in memory of Bela and Eleanor Eichenbaum.  
**Jean Eichenbaum**.  
**Sam and Ellie Frishman**, in honor of Lezlie Frishman and Ellen Goldstein.  
**Jonathan Funk**, in honor of Alice Prussin and the hard work of his colleagues on the Mishkan Dolores Architecture and Design Committee.  
**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**, in honor of the hard work of Tiela Chalmers and Ellie Cohen.  
**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**, in memory of Andrew Stuart.  
**Jonathan Funk, John Arnold and Evan**, in honor of the birthday of Marcia Gittes.  
**Allan Giannini**.  
**Annabel and Robert Goldstein**, in honor of Rabbi Jane Litman.  
**Ellen Goldstein**, in honor of Lea Salem.  
**Prax Gore**.  
**Beth Gould and Anne Hauss**.  
**Kirsten Gustavson and Amy Scharf**, in

celebration of the birth of their son, Benjamin William.

**Leon and Lilah Groisser**.

**Dan Halpern**.

**Trudi and Steve Hauptman**, in honor of Greer's chanting Torah at Rosh Hoshanah, and with thanks to Ora Prochovnick and Brian Besser.

**David Helbraun and Boone Callaway**, in memory of Phyllis Helbraun.

**Judith Holiber and Kim Warsaw**, in honor of Caryl L. Holiber.

**Jason Honig**.

**Richard Inlander**.

**Rose Katz**.

**Naomi Kugler**.

**Evan Kuluk**.

**Bernice Soohoo Lee**, in memory of Ann Kohout.

**Scott Levine**, in memory of Charles S. Levine.

**Patricia Lin**, in honor of Renée Bauer, Jennifer Hirsch, Rabbi Litman, Nicole Bloom, Sue Swigart, Dev Felder Noily, Sarita Groisser, Mike Rankin, Lyssa Friedman and the Cormier-Prussin family.

**Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod**.

**Beth MacLeod**.

**Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin**.

**Nancy Meyer and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe**, in memory of Marilyn O'Keeffe.

**William Mindlin**.

**Ellen Novogrodsky and Stephanie Godt**.

**Carol and Michael Ochs**.

**Joe Puchot**.

**Leila Raim and Catherine Wisniewski**.

**Jeane Redsecker**.

**Stephen M. Rosenthal**.

**Theodore Salomon**.

**Sharyn Saslafsky**.

**Ed Schultz**.

**Martin Spector**.

**Lisa Stadlen**.

**David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**, in memory of Thelma Chalmers.

**Howard Steiermann**, in memory of Thelma Chalmers.

**Russell and Carol Tat**, in memory of Irene Sherwin.

**Steve Unger**.

**Julia Velson**, in memory of Clara Lemlich Shavelson.

**Dana Vinicoff**.

**Doris Weiner and Ken Yeffa**.

**Eli Weinstein**.

**Raymond and Marilyn Weisberg**, in honor of Paul Cohen.

**Abby Wizansky**.

**Richard Woodul II**, in honor of Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado.

**Laurie Zimet and Toni Fitzpatrick**, in honor of the new home of Karen Erlichman and Jana Rickerson.



## Classifieds

**LESBIAN COUPLES** with one child needed for dissertation research on couple relationship and decision-making regarding having another child. Participation involves completing questionnaires. For information, please call 415/273-7252 or email ddesmond@sirus.com.

**CO-PARENT WANTED.** I am a 34-year-old warm, educated, financially secure, CSZ member who will make a great dad. Looking for a woman or couple in the area interested in co-parenting. Flexibility, communication, stability, and raising the child in a loving and nurturing environment key. Call 415/552-9212.

**OUR FAMILY IS GROWING** & we need more space! We are current CSZ members who are expecting the arrival of our first child in April 1999. We are desperately seeking an affordable two bedroom flat, apartment or house to rent. Please call Ellen & Stephanie at 415/285-3626 or 415/552-6734 with any possible leads.

**FOR SALE.** Two orchestra seats to four SF Ballet performances during February, March and April. \$37 per ticket. Call Randy at 882-6926.

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

**CSZ TEEN** looking for babysitting and mother's helper work. Call G. Lindsey at 334-4784 for information.

**TROPICAL PARADISE—Kauai** vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.

## Chocolate for Pesach

**Jeff Forman**, Sha'ar Zahav Va'ad member and classically trained professional pastry chef, will teach a class entitled "Chocolate Desserts for Pesach" in early March, 1999. It will be a fundraiser for the Mishkan and will be held in the kitchen at the Mishkan Dolores building.

Jeff was mentioned in the June, 1998 issue of *Gourmet* magazine as making "heavenly tart dough." However, this dough is not kosher for Pesach! Instead, Jeff will be adapting classic French desserts for Passover. The dishes in the class will include a flourless torte, a souffle, truffles and cookies. All will involve chocolate as an ingredient. Only the finest chocolate will be used.

Jeff is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York, where he studied under Jacques Pepin. He worked on the first season of Chef Pepin's television series *Today's Gourmet* and has worked at Restaurant Lulu, One Market, Palio d'Asti and Splendido. He has taught classes in New York and in Padua, Italy.

Cost of the class will be on a sliding scale of \$120 to \$180. All proceeds will go to the capital campaign. Please contact the CSZ office to sign up.

## Cemetery Prices to Rise

—Richard Inlander, Chair,  
Cemetery Committee

**We** have just been informed by Hills of Eternity that prices for our cemetery plots and services will increase significantly as of January 1, 1999.

As a special consideration to our members, however, the cemetery management will hold prices at the previous level for us until January 31.

This is an excellent time to consider the advantages of making pre-need arrangements. Why not call Steve Weiner (756-3633) at the cemetery today? You'll be glad you did, and those who survive you will appreciate your foresight.

## Naches

To **Kirsten Gustavson and Amy Scharf**, on the birth of their son, Benjamin William Gustavson-Scharf.

To **Lisa Hamburger and Sue Martin**, on the birth of their son, Sean.

To **Julie Dorf and Jenni Olson**, on the birth of their daughter, Hazel Singer Olson-Dorf.

To **Jonathan Pannor and Michael Watenpugh**, on their new home.

## Are you on the Net?

Visit our web site at  
[www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

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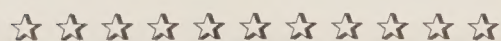
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## Birthdays

1	Desmond Bernstein
1	Howard Herman
1	Hillel Meyer
2	Nicole Gendler
2	Naomi Kosman-Wiener
3	Kimberly Warsaw
3	Sophia Wilson
4	Sarah Goodman
5	Jonathan Bell
5	Alyson Feldman
6	Nathan Robinson
7	Leah Finch
7	Shoshana Moed
9	Jeanette Nichols
9	Genevieve Rose
9	Max Rossoff-Nichols
11	Ellen Gierson
11	Dvora Honigstein
12	Tiela Chalmers
12	Florence Nacamulli
13	Alapai Michels
14	Michael Schwartz
14	Louisa Stone
14	Andrew Wariner
15	Jacqueline Mauro
16	Deena Lahn
17	Gabriel Meyer Edlin
18	Sarah Adler
19	Mike Rankin
20	Ruby Cymrot-Wu
21	Johanna Singer
22	Henri Nielson
22	Laureen Ok Sun Kim
22	Beth Richman
23	Greta Miskatel
23	Andrew Sirkin
24	Jonathan Williamson
25	Neil Hart
25	Susan Jacobson
25	Marcy Whitebook
27	Benjamin Bank
27	Mike Klayman
27	Elliot Klein
28	Alexandra Blachman-Gentile
28	Sheryl Connell
30	Ruth Schoenbach
31	Nora Downs



## Synagogue Information

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)  
office@shaarzahav.org (email)  
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

### Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman

rabbijanelitman@shaarzahav.org

### Officers:

*President*, Diana Buchbinder  
(337-6319, threebuchs@sprynet.com, or president@shaarzahav.org)  
*First Vice President*, David Gellman

*Second Vice President*, Susan Tubbesing

*Treasurer*, Arthur Slepian

*Recorder*, Joe Hample

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Ellie Cohen

Jeff Forman

Sarita Groisser

Sara Haber

Lisa Katz

Robin Leonard

Eileen Levy

Jacob Rothman

Robert Tat

### CSZ Staff:

*Educator*, David Shneer  
educator@shaarzahav.org  
*Administrator*, Lea Salem  
office@shaarzahav.org  
*Program Director*, Renée Bauer  
programdirector@shaarzahav.org  
*Kadimah Head Teacher*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Administrative Assistant*, Melanie Kushnir  
*Youth Advisor*, Meredith Fenton

### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Sue Bojdak  
*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Baby Chavurah*, Melissa and Ari Grossman-Naples  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Bisexual Chavurah*, Jim Frazin  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruth Rainero  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard  
*Dor Rishon*, Sam Messler  
*Dues Liaison*, Eric Temple

*East Bay Services*, Hilary Zaid  
*Endowment Fund*, Merry Luskin  
*Environmental Action*, Barak Gale and Brian Besser  
*Finance*, Arthur Slepian  
*Fine Arts*, Robert Gutterman  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*La'atid*, Geoff Benjamin  
*Leadership Development*, Paul Cohen

*Library*, Joan Goldman  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold  
*Membership*, Ami Zusman  
*Newsletter*, Robin Leonard  
*Past Presidents Council*, Merry Luskin  
*Personnel*, Susan Tubbesing  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Allan Gold  
*Ritual*, Lyssa Friedman  
*Social Action*, Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein  
*Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah*, Ilana Bernstein  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WCGLJO Liaison*, Neil Grungras  
*Women's Chavurah*, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World

Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.



**1 Friday**  
13 Tevet

- 4:43 pm, Candle lighting
- 7 pm, Early service, led by Ora Prochovnick
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Vayhi, led by Daniel Chesir and Lyssa Friedman, sermon by Bernard Pechter

**2 Saturday**  
14 Tevet

**3 Sunday**  
15 Tevet

**4 Monday**  
16 Tevet

- 6 pm, Healing service, CSZ
- 7 pm, Children's Education Board

**5 Tuesday**  
17 Tevet

- 6:30 pm, Dues committee

**6 Wednesday**  
18 Tevet

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

**7 Thursday**  
19 Tevet

- 6:30 pm, Siddur committee

**8 Friday**  
20 Tevet

- 4:49 pm, Candle lighting
- 7:15 pm, Niggun service, with Jhos Singer
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Shemoth, led by Rabbi Litman and Debbie Geber

**9 Saturday**  
21 Tevet

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shabbat service, led by Dev Felder Noily
- 3 pm, HIV support group

**10 Sunday**  
22 Tevet

**11 Monday**  
23 Tevet

- 6:30 pm, Newsletter layout/proofreading
- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

**12 Tuesday**  
24 Tevet

- 7 pm, Adult Education Program: "Jewish Influence on Architecture"

**13 Wednesday**  
25 Tevet

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class
- 8 pm, Debbie Friedman concert, Congregation Emanu-el

**14 Thursday**  
26 Tevet

**15 Friday**  
27 Tevet

- 4:56 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, East Bay service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Vaera, led by Rabbi Litman and Gary Sokol

**16 Saturday**  
28 Tevet

- 5 pm, CSZ/MCC Gay Widowers workshop and Healing service

**17 Sunday**  
29 Tevet

**18 Monday**  
1 Shevat

- 7 pm, Membership committee

**19 Tuesday**  
2 Shevat

**20 Wednesday**  
3 Shevat

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

**21 Thursday**  
4 Shevat

- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim committee
- 7:30 pm, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch discussion

**22 Friday**  
5 Shevat

UAHC Regional Biennial, Sonoma

- 5:04 pm, Candle lighting
- 6:30 pm, Tot Shabbat brown bag dinner
- 7:15 pm, Tot Shabbat, led by Rabbi Litman and Patricia Lin
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Bo, led by Jonathan Funk and Steve Weitz, sermon by Alan Ferrara

**23 Saturday**  
6 Shevat

UAHC Regional Biennial, Sonoma

- 9:30 am, Kadimah

**24 Sunday**  
7 Shevat

UAHC Regional Biennial, Sonoma

- 7:30 pm, Diversity Dialogue: "Old, Young and In-between at Sha'ar Zahav"

**25 Monday**  
8 Shevat

**26 Tuesday**  
9 Shevat

**27 Wednesday**  
10 Shevat

- 4 pm, Kadimah Hebrew class

**28 Thursday**  
11 Shevat

- 6:30 pm, Ritual committee

**29 Friday**  
12 Shevat

- 5:11 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Shira/Beshalach, led by Eileen Levy and Brian Besser

**30 Saturday**  
13 Shevat

- 9 am, Tu b'Shevat tree planting with Friends of the Urban Forest
- 9:30 am, Kadimah/Family Tu b'Shevat

**31 Sunday**  
14 Shevat

- 7:30 pm, Tu b'Shevat Seder, CSZ oneg room

**Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.**

## East Bay Services

January 15, location TBA.  
For information, call Hilary Zaid (510/654-8907).

## FEBRUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JANUARY 4

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Please submit articles via e-mail to robinl@nolo.com. If you do not have e-mail, please submit them on a 3½-inch disk and mail to CSZ. *No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.*



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